

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

GUILLERMO MENDOZA,

No. C 09-1336 MHP

Petitioner,

MEMORANDUM & ORDER

v.

Re: Petition For Writ Of Habeas Corpus

LOUIS WYNN,

Respondent.

On March 26, 2009, petitioner Guillermo Mendoza filed a petition for a writ of habeas corpus. Two weeks later, on April 20, 2009, petitioner filed an amended petition. For the reasons stated below, the court DISMISSES his petition.

BACKGROUND

On June 12, 2002, petitioner was convicted in the Superior Court of San Mateo County for possession of marijuana and possession of a firearm under California Health and Safety Code section 11359 and California Penal Code section 12022(a)(2). Docket No. 3 ("Amended Petition") at 2. Petitioner plead no contest to the charges and was sentenced to 16 months in prison. *Id.* Petitioner has since completed his sentence and is no longer in custody of the state. *Id.* It appears that petitioner was deported on November 5, 2002, subsequent to his 2002 conviction.

Petitioner appears to be currently incarcerated at the Tucson Federal Correctional Institution ("Tucson FCI"). *Id.* at 5. Although petitioner is challenging his California state court conviction, Louis Wynn, the warden of the Tucson FCI has been substituted as the defendant. *Id.* at 1.

1 Petitioner pled guilty to a violation of 8 U.S.C. section 1326 on January 1, 2008. *United States of*
2 *America v. Mendoza-Baldivias*, No. CR 07-1038-CKJ-CRP, Docket No. 65 (D. Ariz. May 28, 2009).
3 Petitioner's 2008 sentence includes a sentencing enhancement pursuant to 8 U.S.C. section
4 1326(b)(2), which calls for higher penalties for those whose removal was subsequent to a conviction
5 for commission of an aggravated felony.

6 7 LEGAL STANDARD

8 This court may entertain a petition for writ of habeas corpus "in behalf of a person in custody
9 pursuant to the judgment of a state court only on the ground that he is in custody in violation of the
10 Constitution or laws or treaties of the United States." 28 U.S.C. § 2254(a). A district court shall
11 "award the writ or issue an order directing the respondent to show cause why the writ should not be
12 granted, unless it appears from the application that the applicant or person detained is not entitled
13 thereto." 28 U.S.C. § 2243. "If it plainly appears from the petition and any attached exhibits that
14 the petitioner is not entitled to relief in the district court, the judge must dismiss the petition." Rule
15 4, Rules Governing section 2254 Cases.

16 17 DISCUSSION

18 Petitioner is challenging the validity of his 2002 California state court conviction.
19 Specifically, he claims that he was denied effective assistance of counsel because his attorney
20 advised him that pleading no contest to criminal charges would not result in deportation.

21 The federal writ of habeas corpus is only available to persons "in custody" at the time the
22 petition is filed. 28 U.S.C. § 2241(c), 2254(a). A petitioner who files a habeas petition after he has
23 fully served his sentence and who is not subject to court supervision is not "in custody" for the
24 purposes of this court's subject matter jurisdiction and his petition is therefore properly denied.
25 *Delong v. Hennessey*, 912 F.2d 1144, 1146 (9th Cir. 1990). Moreover, the immigration
26 consequences of a state conviction do not render an individual "in custody pursuant to the judgment
27 of a State court." *Resendiz v. Kovensky*, 416 F.3d 952, 958 (9th Cir. 2005) (an INS detainee facing
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1 deportation on the basis of a state-court conviction is not in custody pursuant to the judgment of a
2 state court and therefore cannot file habeas petition under 28 U.S.C. section 2254); *id.* at 960 (an
3 immigration detainee is prevented from collaterally attacking a state court judgment in a 28 U.S.C.
4 section 2241 petition against the INS; the sole remedy is to attack the state court conviction in state
5 court). Here, petitioner has completed his sentence, including any parole or probation, imposed by
6 the Superior Court of San Mateo County and is therefore not in custody for purposes of section
7 2254. If petitioner seeks to challenge his current custody pursuant to the Arizona conviction for his
8 violation of Section 1326, his petition should be filed in the District of Arizona.

9 Moreover, petitioner failed to present his claims to the California Supreme Court. He claims
10 that exhaustion is not required because of *People v. Kim*, 45 Cal. 4th 1078 (2009). Although the
11 California Supreme Court held that “persons like defendant, who have completely served their
12 sentence and also completed their probation or parole period, may not challenge their underlying
13 conviction in a petition for a writ of habeas corpus because they are in neither actual nor
14 constructive custody for state habeas corpus purposes,” it did not alter exhaustion requirements
15 under Section 2254. *Id.* at 1108. Consequently, the petition must also be summarily dismissed for
16 failing to exhaust state court remedies.

17 The court notes the recent decision of the United States Supreme Court in *Padilla v.*
18 *Kentucky*, ___ U.S. ___, 130 S. Ct. 1473 (2010), which addresses counsel’s failure to advise
19 criminal defendants of immigration consequences of plea agreements. However, it appears that this
20 decision will be of little assistance to petitioner. The defendant there was challenging his
21 conviction in a post-conviction motion before the state court in which he was convicted. At that
22 time he was in custody on that conviction. *See Commonwealth v. Padilla*, 253 S.W. 3d 482, 283
23 (Ky. 2008). Petitioner here failed to pursue his habeas remedy in the state supreme court, and in
24 light of *Kim* and the long line of cases preceding it, he cannot do so now.

25 In fact, California has a statute, California Penal Code section 1016.5, which has been in
26 effect since January 1, 1978, requiring the court to advise a defendant pleading guilty or *nolo*
27 *contendere* that there may be immigration consequences such as deportation, exclusion or removal as
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1 a result of conviction. This section may provide relief from a conviction if the court failed to
2 comply with the statute. However, petitioner does not allege that the court failed to advise him in
3 accordance with the statute, and the statute does not provide a remedy for ineffective assistance of
4 counsel even if counsel misadvised his client. *See Kim*, 45 Cal. 4th at 1107 n.20. Nor does it appear
5 that petitioner is any better situated than the petitioner in *Kim* to seek extraordinary relief upon a
6 petition for a writ of error *coram nobis*, which in any event would need to be brought before the state
7 court in which he suffered his conviction. *Id.* at 1091–1107.

8 It is clear from the foregoing that there is no relief available to petitioner in this court.

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10 CONCLUSION

11 For the foregoing reasons, the petition is summarily DISMISSED.

12 IT IS SO ORDERED.

13 Dated: June 3, 2010

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16 MARILYN HALL PATEL
17 United States District Court Judge
18 Northern District of California
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